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## **Green Power**

### **Renewable Energy Certificates Prices**

In general, REC prices depend on a number of factors, including the technology, the vintage (year in which it was generated), the volume purchased, the region in which the generator is located, whether they are eligible for certification, and whether the RECs are bought to meet compliance obligations or serve voluntary retail consumers. Natural gas prices can also affect the cost competitiveness of renewable energy generation, which is reflected in REC prices. [Read more](#). *Source: The Green Power Network, 10/1/12*

**Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.**

## **Renewable Energy Technologies**

### **PSEG Queen Creek Solar Farm in Arizona begins commercial operation**

PSEG Solar Source today announced the commercial operation of the 19 megawatt AC (25.2 megawatt DC) Queen Creek Solar Farm in Queen Creek, Arizona. SRP has a 20-year agreement to acquire all of the solar energy generated by the project and has begun accepting power from the plant.

The solar plant, located on 148 acres of land approximately 30 miles southeast of Phoenix, contains approximately 90,000 crystalline panels

operating on a single axis tracking system. It is owned by PSEG Solar Source, a subsidiary of PSEG, a diversified energy company based in New Jersey. juwi solar Inc. (JSI) developed the project, served as EPC contractor and will provide operation and maintenance services for the project. [Read more](#). Source: SRP, 10/4/12

## **New report surveys PV "soft costs" in Germany**

The wide disparity between the installed price of residential PV in Germany and the United States has been well documented and can be attributed primarily to differences in "soft" costs (or business process costs). In order to better characterize the nature of these differences, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory fielded a survey of German PV installers to collect granular data on the number of labor hours and labor costs associated with various soft cost elements for residential PV in Germany. The survey instrument was adapted from one that NREL previously fielded to U.S. installers, thereby providing a source of data on residential PV soft costs that could be readily compared between the two countries. The comparison focuses specifically on host-customer-owned systems installed in Germany in 2011 and in the U.S. in 2010. [Download the presentation](#). Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 9/19/12

## **Geothermal Power Needs Inventions to Thrive**

Advanced geological mapping and subsurface drilling tools must still be developed in order for geothermal power to become a more prominent source of renewable energy, experts said at the National Geothermal Summit.

In a breakout session at the summit on Wednesday, Aug. 8, a panel of government and private-sector geothermal experts discussed the value that additional 3-D modeling, geophysical surveys to indicate hot water flow below ground, and other research and development work could have on the future of geothermal exploration.

James Faulds, director of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, said that like oil and gas deposits, about two-thirds of the geothermal energy sources remain hidden, with no surface expression. Advanced technologies for fossil fuels has been developed, but similar advancements for geothermal have lagged behind. [Read more](#). Source: Government Technology, 8/13/12

**Learn more about [renewable resources](#).**

## Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

### IREC Report for October

The monthly recap of the latest news about the Interstate Renewable Energy Council's programs, policies and best practices in renewable energy. [Read more](#). *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 10/15/12*

### Application for Solar Policy and Program Technical Assistance in 2013

Need help lowering solar soft costs in your area? The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Program announces a technical assistance opportunity for states targeting policy and programmatic improvements that will open and develop markets for distributed generation (DG), specifically solar rooftop photovoltaics (PV). [Read more](#). *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 10/10/12*

### Nevada Co-op's Solar Water Success Heats Up Interest From Investor-Owned Utilities, Regulators, and Other Energy Experts

[Valley Electric Association](#) (VEA), an electric co-op based in Pahrump, NV, hosted a workshop on Oct. 8, 2012, to highlight the history, economics, and impacts associated with its nationally-recognized domestic solar water heating program. The event was organized in response to an information request from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and drew attendees representing Nevada's largest investor-owned utilities, NV Energy and Southwest Gas, along with counsel from Nevada's Office of the Attorney General Bureau of Consumer Protection, the program manager of the Maryland Solar Water Task Force, in addition to engineering and economic analysts from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada." [Read more](#). *Source: Valley Electric Association, 10/10/12*

### October 2012 Connecting to the Grid Newsletter

***The New and Updated Freeing the Grid: Policy metrics have never been more fun***

Even if you regularly follow news about renewable energy, you might have missed a quiet but significant development out of California last month. On September 13th, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted a substantial revision to its influential Rule 21, which governs state-jurisdictional interconnection procedures. This revision builds on Hawaii's successful interconnection reform process in 2011 by establishing several new national best practices, removing unnecessary barriers to the state's

flourishing distributed generation (DG) market. [Read more](#). Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 10/1/12*

## **SunShot Initiative summer webinar series presentations available online**

The Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) Webinar series targeted state policymakers and staff. The Webinars were organized by the DOE Solar Program, in coordination with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). [Read more](#). Source: *DOE EERE SunShot Initiative, 9/12/12*

## **Top 10 Most Important State Policy Developments of Distributed Renewable Energy**

Released today in the anticipated 2012 Annual Updates & Trends Report, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC) reports on the dynamic renewable energy environment, including growing and changing markets, increased quality demands by consumers, and the year's regulatory successes which are integral to expanding residential and commercial use of clean energy across the U.S.

"This report offers details on how our work is facilitating a healthy marketplace for clean energy, including strengthening workforce readiness for the clean energy economy," said Jane Weissman, IREC Executive Director.

The report cites the top 10 most important state policy developments of 2011, and why each made the cut. Rulemaking successes in the states that lead the nation in support of distributed renewable energy are important as replicable examples for other states. [Read more](#). Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 9/10/12*

## **Small Cities and Towns Pioneering Clean Energy Economy**

### ***Small- and Medium-Sized Communities Innovate on Clean-Energy and Efficiency Programs***

Four years ago, Babylon, N.Y., faced a challenge: where to find funding for much-needed energy-efficiency retrofits. The Long Island town devised a creative solution—pass a policy expanding the definition of solid waste to include carbon emissions to tap its solid waste fund to pay for the retrofits.

"We wanted to make a program that bridged the gap for homeowners and financing for retrofits," said Will Schweiger, Operations Manager, Long Island Green Homes in the town of Babylon. "The results speak for themselves that we hit the nail on the head with what people needed."

The town also passed one of the most ambitious green building codes in the US; created a Green Certificate of Occupancy to designate energy efficient homes; and elevated the skill level of the local home performance industry by providing training opportunities. The Long Island Green Homes program now results in savings of \$1,000 per year (or 20-40 percent in monthly utility bills) for the average Babylon resident and, as of 2011, supports 50 full-time jobs. The program has expanded to a seven-city consortium across Long Island. [Read more](#). Source: *New Energy Cities*, 7/18/12

## **NREL Study Shows Renewable Energy Potential in Every State**

A new study of renewable energy's technical potential finds that every state in the nation has the space and resource to generate clean energy.

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory produced the study, U.S. RE Technical Potential, which looks at available renewable resources in each state. It establishes an upper-boundary estimate of development potential. Economic or market restraints would factor into what projects might actually be deployed.

The report is valuable for decision-makers and utility executives because it compares estimates across six renewable energy technologies and unifies assumptions and methods. It shows the achievable energy generation of a particular technology given resource availability—solar, wind, geothermal availability, etc.—system performance, topographic limitations, and environmental and land-use constraints. [Read more](#). Source: *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*, 7/26/12

## **Western governors' report highlights integration reform needs**

[Meeting Renewable Energy Targets in the West at Least Cost: The Integration Challenge](#), a June report commissioned by the [Western Governors' Association](#) makes a solid case for implementing a number of grid operating reforms that will facilitate wind integration and generally make the grid operate more efficiently in the Western U.S.

The WGA commissioned the report, which was prepared by the Regulatory Assistance Project, to explore ways to integrate renewables in the most cost effective manner. The report tackles many issues important to wind power, comprehensively presenting the benefits of:

- sub-hourly generation dispatch and transmission scheduling,
- an Energy Imbalance Market,
- dynamic transfers,
- improving wind and solar energy forecasting,

- building transmission and using balancing area cooperation to take advantage of the geographic diversity of renewable resources,
- improving management of grid operating reserves,
- increasing and improving the use of demand response, and
- obtaining more flexibility from existing and new generation resources.

The report urges utilities, states and other jurisdictions to work collaboratively to accelerate reforms. *Source: AWEA Wind Energy Weekly, 7/27/12*

**Learn more about [education](#) and [outreach activities](#).**

## **News from Washington**

### **Tribal Law Alert: All Indian Tribes Can Lease Tribal Land Without BIA Approval**

On July 30, 2012, President Obama signed the HEARTH Act of 2012, Public Law No. 112-151, amending the Indian Long Term Leasing Act, 25 U.S.C. § 415. The HEARTH Act authorizes Indian tribes to lease tribal land for business and other purposes for up to 75 years (25-year base term with two renewal terms of 25 years each for business and agricultural leases) without review and approval by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The HEARTH Act eliminates delays, costs, federal environmental reviews, federal administrative and judicial litigation, and risks associated with BIA review and approval of tribal leases of tribal land. [Read more](#). *Source: Stoel Rives LLP, 8/3/12*

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## **State Activities, Marketing & Market Research**

### **Scientists Identify Massive Geothermal Hotspot in Utah**

Following two full years of study, scientists have confirmed that they have identified a huge geothermal hotspot in Utah, presenting the possibilities of exploitation of the find for cheap energy production purposes.

The area in question, covering an area of about 100 square miles, lies in Utah's Black Rock Desert basin, south of Delta. During the two-year study, researchers drilled nine deep wells in the basin in an effort to confirm that water at very high temperatures was close enough to the surface to be

manipulated, potentially allowing it to be converted relatively easily into steam to be used to generate electricity. [Read more](#). *Source: Consumer Energy Reports, 10/3/12*

## **IREC Releases New Report: 12,000 MW of Distributed Generation by 2020 — Ambitious goal for Calif.**

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council releases '12,000 MW of Renewable Distributed Generation by 2020' Report 12,000 MW of DG can power more than two million homes in California

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC) released a new report today that analyzes the ambitious goal set forth by California Governor Edmund Brown's office to spur 12,000-MW of distributed generation (DG). The report, 12,000 MW of Renewable Distributed Generation by 2020, provides a careful analysis of the benefits, costs and policy implications of the 12,000-MW goal, to inform decision-making on the development of the plan and help ensure its effective implementation.

"The Governor's 12,000 MW goal has the potential to stimulate enormous economic growth in California," said Jane Weissman, IREC's Executive Director. "This report brings a real-world context to the goal and provides policymakers with a clear path forward through the implementation process."

To put this goal in context, 12,000 MW of DG is enough to power over two million homes. [Read more](#). *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 8/1/12*

**Learn more about [state renewables programs](#) and [energy analysis](#).**

## **Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News**

### **WaterSMART funding available for 2013**

The U.S. Department of the Interior's (Interior) [WaterSMART](#) (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program is working to achieve a sustainable water strategy to meet the Nation's water needs. The Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation's) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse program (Title XVI) is an important part of WaterSMART.

Under Title XVI, a water reuse project is one that reclaims and reuses municipal, industrial, domestic or agricultural wastewater and naturally impaired groundwater and/or surface waters. Reclaimed water can be used for a variety of purposes, such as environmental restoration, fish and wildlife, ground water recharge, municipal, domestic, industrial, agricultural, power

generation or recreation. Water reuse is an essential tool in stretching the limited water supplies in the Western United States.

Title XVI projects develop and supplement urban and irrigation water supplies through water reuse, thereby improving efficiency, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply. Title XVI projects provide growing communities with new sources of clean water while promoting water and energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. Application deadline is Dec. 12, 2012. For more information, contact [Michelle Maher](#) at 303-445-2025. Reference [Funding Opportunity No. R13SF80002](#).  
*Source: Grants.gov, 10/17/12*

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***This news item comes to you as a service of Western's [Renewable Resources Program](#).***